

## **GULF OF MEXICO GROUPEL FORUM 2007**

### **Agenda**

**Date:** February 27 1:00pm-4:30pm  
February 28 – 8:00am-12:00pm

**Location:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

**Hosts:** NOAA Fisheries Service  
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission  
Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

### **Objectives**

- Provide an overview of regulatory processes and mandates, stock assessments and management decisions as they affect the grouper fishery.
- Develop ways to maximize the value of opportunities for public input in fishery management decisions.
- Begin a continuing dialogue to enhance communication on fisheries regulatory issues between fishery management agencies and constituents.
- Present an update on recent grouper assessments.

### **February 27, 2007**

#### **1:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Introductions (Gil McRae, FWC and Julie Morris, Gulf Council)
- Constituent issues/concerns (Roy Crabtree, NOAA Fisheries)
- Forum agenda and objectives (Jeff Blair, Facilitator)

#### **1:15 Clarification of Regulatory Process and Mandates: Why and How a Regulation Becomes a Regulation**

- Federal regulatory process and mandates (Mike McLemore, NOAA Fisheries)
- Role of Gulf Council in federal fishery rulemaking (Rick Leard, Gulf Council)
- State of Florida regulatory process (Mark Robson, FWC)
- State/federal coordination (Bill Teehan, FWC)
- Points of entry: Opportunities to become involved or provide input in fishery rulemaking (Jeff Blair, Facilitator)

#### **1:45 Open Forum/Discussion/Question & Answer Session**

#### **2:15 Break**

**2:30 Stock (Population) Assessments & the Science**

- How/what data are collected for grouper management? (Richard Cody, FWRI and Steve Turner, NOAA Fisheries)
- How is the status of groupers determined? (Clay Porch, NOAA Fisheries)

**3:00 Open Forum/Discussion/Question & Answer Session**

**3:30 Update on Red Grouper and Gag Assessments (NOAA Fisheries)**

**4:00 Open Forum/Discussion/Question & Answer Session**

**4:30 Adjourn**

**5:00 Evening Social at Midtown Sundries (downtown St.Petersburg)**

**February 28, 2007**

**8:00 Welcome and Opening Remarks**

- Review of day one activities and results (Jeff Blair, Facilitator)
- Review Forum agenda and objectives (Jeff Blair, Facilitator)

**8:15 Grouper Management Considerations**

- Factors influencing grouper management decisions (Stu Kennedy, Gulf Council and Andy Strelcheck, NOAA Fisheries)
  - How are data used in decision making?
  - How does bycatch affect the status of grouper?
  - What management tools (size limits, bag limits, seasons, etc.) are commonly used to manage grouper fisheries?
  - Why regulate multiple species together?
  - Why are commercial and recreational fisheries managed differently?
- How are socioeconomic impacts considered in fishery management decisions? (Brad Gentner, NOAA Fisheries)
  - Economic value versus impact
  - Allocation
  - Minimizing fishing community impacts

**8:45 Open Forum/Discussion/Question & Answer Session**

**9:30 Next Steps for Grouper**

- Where do we go from here? (Stu Kennedy, Gulf Council)
  - What are the on going grouper management actions?
  - At what step is the Council in determining new grouper regulations?

**9:45 Break**

**10:00 Constituent Communication**

- Review of opportunities for public input – Federal, Council and State
- Overview of current constituent communication activities

**10:15 Open Forum/Discussion/Q&A Session**

- What can be done to improve public understanding of regulatory processes, stock assessments, and management?
- What can be done to maximize the value of public comment opportunities? Are there ways to communicate with constituents in addition to what is required by law that would be helpful?
- What can be done to better communicate technical/scientific information?
- What else can fishery management agencies do to strengthen their relationship with constituents?

**11:00 Stakeholder Organization Panel: Improving Communication and Maximizing the Effectiveness of Stakeholder Input****11:50 Closing Remarks**

- Gil McRae – FWC
- Roy Crabtree – NOAA Fisheries

**12:00 Adjourn****Organization Abbreviations:**

FWC - Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

FWRI – FWC’s Fish and Wildlife Research Institute

Gulf Council - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council

NOAA Fisheries- NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service